



June 2011

Editor: Vincent DePaul

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From The Director's Corner:

Greetings to all LPA District 2 members, and welcome to our first edition of the brand new district's newsletter. Many thanks to our new newsletter editor, Vince DePaul for taking on this responsibility. For a while now, our district was lacking a newsletter editor and I can't thank Vince enough for offering his time and energies for offering to fill this roll. The district hopes to produce 4 newsletters annually. In order to cut both mailing and printing costs, we are looking at sending out the editions via email, through either Constant Contacts or a similar service. Our national office uses this service for their email updates which work well. I'm currently looking to see if we can use the service for little or no cost to distribute our newsletters.

While I am on the subject of the newsletter, Vince is always looking for news, stories, and photos for upcoming copies of our newsletter. Please feel free to email Vince directly at: vdepaul@nycap.rr.com.

So what's going on in LPA and our district? Man, where do I start. Why not with our past regional wrap up? This past spring, our Islander's chapter hosted district 2's spring regional. It was held at the Marriott in Uniondale NY. Mike Petruzzelli reported just under 300 registered members were in attendance, which was a great turnout. In standard Islander's fashion, there were games and attractions scheduled during the welcome reception, and at the banquet. New to this spring's regional was the addition of a bunch

of DAAA events. Many thanks to Neal Jones and Amy Andrews for running these events, which included Basketball, Bocce, and Volleyball. We had over 50 members participate in these events, which is terrific! I'd love if we could have a sports event or two at every regional. Rounding out the weekend was a great banquet. Over 200 attended. During the banquet, entertainment was provided, which made the evening a blast. The Islander's also awarded six \$250 scholarships to college bound members from their chapter. Congratulations to all the recipients!

Our district officers met during the regional and conducted our board meeting. Several topics were brought up and voted on. We reviewed our upcoming regional locations. Next fall, we will be at in Long Branch NJ, staying at the wonderful Ocean Place Resort and Spa. This regional is being hosted by our Garden State chapter, with chapter president Danielle Morganti organizing this event. Eight years ago, our district had our regional at the same resort, and we had a great time. Danielle is still in the process of finalizing this event. The room rate is an amazing \$ 89/night. At the time of printing, the hotel is not open to accept reservation yet. Please check our district's website for full details on this event. I will also update the site once the hotel is open for room reservations. Our site's link is:

<http://www.lpadiistrict2.org/D2EventInformation.html>

The officers also voted to financially assist Jimmy Korpai's "Understanding Dwarfism" website. Jimmy has been hard at work creating a friendly, educational

website that anyone could go to for answers to most any question related to dwarfism. The website is still in the development phase, but is well on its way. Jimmy was hoping to use the images which Gary Parker has taken during our national events. Unfortunately Gary declined releasing the rights, so Jimmy had to hire a photographer to take images for the site. The photographer was present at the regional, and many individuals signed up for photo sessions. Jimmy stated the images came out great and has been hard at work replacing the images on the website, as well as creating cards and educational literature which can be handed out at schools, and to families who have questions about dwarfism. Please check out Jimmy's website at: <http://www.understandingdwarfism.com>. If you are in need of any educational cards or literature, please contact Jimmy at: jkorpai@lpadistrict2.org

Also voted on and approved was the creation of an annual educational scholarship. After receiving over \$20,000 from the proceeds of the 2009 national conference, I've been looking for ideas of how to spend these monies which would benefit members of our district, and an annual scholarship, I thought would be a great idea.

Last year, we received some sad news that the Pa. Dutch Chapter president, Pattie Davis was informed by her doctors new cancer was found in her lungs, and that the ongoing battle she's been having had taken a turn for the worse. We were all saddened by the news. Pattie has been a pillar for both our district and the Pa Dutch chapter. She, along with her husband, our district treasurer, Jim Davis has given so much to our organization; I and other district members wanted a way to honor her.

So we decided to place the scholarship program in her name. Hence, I am proud to announce the

Pattie Davis Honorary Annual Scholarship. This scholarship will be an annual \$1000 scholarship, which will be awarded to a district 2 member, who is either a current college student or one that has been accepted to an accredited school. Funding for this scholarship will come from resources from the district, chapter donations, as well as private donations.

At the time this newsletter is being written, the district has collected over \$1400 in donations, and received a promise from Ken Ritter, that all donations collected at the Pattie Davis Challenge hole from the Pa. Dutch chapter's annual golf outing will go towards supporting the scholarship program. My sincere thanks to Ken for this loving donation, as well as thanks to all the private donations. If we receive enough donations, it may be possible to award 2 scholarships. I'm currently in touch with our national office to determine the final steps we need to do to set up, and pick our recipients. Updates will be posted on our website.

Speaking about the national office, many of you might be wondering about our upcoming national conference in Anaheim, Ca. Well, Joanna Campbell and District 12 are hard at work and believe they will break all attendance records of events past. This year, the main hotel was sold out in record time. They are on already on their 2nd overflow hotel. It's simply amazing how attendance at our national conference has grown over the past few years. All members should have already received their registration packets via USPS. If you haven't or would like more information on the upcoming conference, please visit the website:

<http://www.lpaonline.org/mc/page.do?sitePagelD=96286&orgId=lpa>

And if you are not able to make it to Anaheim in July, please mark your calendars for future national

conferences: July 2012 - Sheraton Hotel, Dallas, Texas; July 2013 - Marriott Wardman Hotel, Washington, DC.

Hope to see you at Anaheim in July. And if you can't make the flight, let's shoot for Long Branch this fall!

Please check our website for any district news. And watch your email in September or October for the next newsletter installment.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joe Zrinski
Director, LPA District 2

2011 District 2 Upcoming Events:

June 10th-12th – Camp Little People

July 1st-8th – National LPA Convention Anaheim California

August 6th – Pool Party and potluck hosted by Mohawk Valley at Vince and Nicole DePaul's house

August 13th – Garden State Chapter Summer Picnic @ Black Bear Lake on August 13th

October 15th – Fall Harvest hosted by the Hudson Valley Chapter

Nov 4th -6th Fall Regional Long Branch, NJ

For Further Information go to www.lpadistrict2.org, click on District News and Events.

Understanding Dwarfism

Darlene and I are the proud parents of our daughter Hailey Korpai who is four years old and has Achondroplasia. Before we had Hailey, we knew absolutely nothing about dwarfism or the LP community. Unfortunately this is the fact with the majority of our population. It has therefore become our mission to figure out different ways to help educate the general public and help raise awareness.

This is a huge undertaking since there is little information out there. It is also a very important one so that the general public does not view the LP community based on the stereotypes and stigmas placed on us throughout history. The main focus of this project is to raise awareness and support those who wish to educate so that in the years to come people with a form of dwarfism are better seen as positive contributors to society.

The Understanding Dwarfism Project is well under way. We had a photographer at the LPA D2 Spring Regional taking photos of people that we plan to use on the website and in other forms to help with education and awareness. THANK YOU to those who participated in the photo shoot! The photo shoot was a huge success with many people participating. We took over 500 shots. You will begin to get copies of your photos soon.

We are now looking for participation and input from the community to better help us complete other parts of the website for this project. If you visit the website www.understandingdwarfism.com you will notice a section entitled "Discussion." In this area we hope to provide video clips of people answering certain questions to help bring across a better understanding. We are also looking for personal

essays similar to the one in the past issue of LPA Today by Jennifer Crummley entitled "A Fighting Chance." All questions and essays are to give the general public a better understanding of who we are, the challenges we face, the wonderful lives we live, and the positive contributions to society that we provide. Below are a few questions that we need answers for:

- If I had your attention for one minute I would want you to know...
- When people stare and point at me I feel...
- In my world...
- These are some of my challenges and this is how I face them...
- This is who I am and what I do...
- I would not change being "little" because...
- Why certain terminology is offensive...
- This is how I see myself...
- When I grow up I want to...
- If I could change the world I would...

These are a few ideas that we will use in video questions or in essay form. This portion of the site is an opportunity for you to say something to the world. So please feel free to add to this list or do your own thing. If you have a personal essay which does not touch upon the topics listed above, we would like to see them. This is open to LP's and LP's, parents, siblings, friends or family. Not all essays or video clips will be used but we do hope to rotate them from time to time.

If you are interested in writing a personal essay or already have one that you would like to contribute to this project or have any questions please send it to Jimmy and Darlene Korpai at jk@hvc.rr.com

If you would like to participate in the video clips please let us know and we will notify you when we set up a taping session. If you would like to make a tape of your own, please do it against a light background from your mid-chest area and up. You should be looking slightly off to the side of the camera as if being interviewed by someone. We are trying to keep a uniform look to the site and therefore offer these guidelines. A sample video will be up on the site under the "Discussion" portion of the site under "What I want you to know".

IN THE WORK PLACE

On the site we have a section entitled "In the work place." In this section we are looking to showcase the different occupations and educational accomplishments of the LP community. This will allow the world to see the many ways we contribute to society and an inspiration to the youth of our community to see the many options that they have.

A form is available to fill out that asks your profession, your responsibilities and other questions pertaining to this subject. Your profile will be listed on the website with a possible photo (head shot), your first name and last initial along with your age, county and state. If you are retired you can post what you did do and mention your retirement, if you wish. If you are interested in being part of this section of the site, please let us know and we will send you out a form.

A LITTLE HELP FOR A GREAT CAUSE

With the help of District 2, we purchased two small table top 11"x16" retractable banners and one large 47"x 84" retractable banner. We also put together a table top banner which hangs over a table as well as a banner that can hang over head behind a table. Some of these items were sent to two different awareness events within our district. This is the beginning of ironing out a kit that we can send to anyone within our district that they can use for the educational or awareness efforts.



We would be able to ship the kit to you. We ask that when you are done using the material that you ship it back to us for the next person to use. This kit will offer a uniform and inviting look to attract people to your event or table. If this is something that you might be interested in please contact Jimmy Korpai: jk@hvc.rr.com.

THANKS FOR HELPING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Jimmy and Darlene Korpai

The New York Towers

Submitted by an Islanders Chapter Member

The New York Towers may be short in height, but their message is BIG. They say that challenges in life are only opportunities for people to build their character and become stronger people. With their motto **inspire - motivate - educate**, the Towers are an all little person basketball team based out of Long Island who have shown their fans all year, that having a positive attitude really can make a difference in your ability to succeed and achieve. Clinton Brown started the Towers basketball program two years ago, with the initial hopes of building a local DAAA-type program for young adults to take part in. He figured why should people wait all year to play sports with other LP's, so he got gym space, called a bunch of his buddies, and there started the New York Towers.

The Towers practiced their first year, once a month, and built momentum slowly by gaining interest from LP's as far west as Pittsburgh, as well as bringing in three of their players from the Mid-Hudson area. "Once we got everyone in the gym for the first time and the guys saw that the reality of this team existing could really happen, you could see the excitement level really pick up. I think its a dream come true for something like this to exist so close to home for all these guys and I'm hoping that other chapters around the country will use us as a template to build programs like this for their local athletes," says Brown. The Towers would have practice where ever they could find court time, whether it be at a local outdoor court, a nearby school, or a neighborhood sports club.

The team worked hard prior to the Nashville LPA conference and traveled to Tennessee to compete in the annual DAAA basketball tournament. After a full year of practice and hard work, Coach Pat Fava stood on the sidelines and led them straight to the championship game. The time the Towers spent together working on plays, getting to know each other, building friendships, which are all indicative of building a true team, paid off in a gold medal victory for the Towers. Family and friends were in the stands watching and cheering, video cameras all over the gymnasium captured this epic moment for these 12 young men and capped a terrific first year for the program.

With the team having so many dynamic, out-going personalities, Brown saw a true opportunity with the team to promote dwarfism awareness. He saw the positive reaction that young average size people had to watching the Towers play, by way of his two young cousins, Christopher (13) and Matthew (10), who were huge fans of their cousins' team and told him "my friends would really like to watch you guys." Brown believes that introducing differences and disabilities to young people really helps their comfortability with LP's for the rest of their lives. Presenting it to them through basketball is a fun, non confrontational, exciting way for them to see LP's doing regular

things. With that in mind, after Nashville, Brown asked the guys on the team what they thought about the prospects of doing games in the local community to help promote dwarfism awareness. They were unanimously behind him on the idea and it was only with their blessing and enthusiasm that the Towers would go on to have four games over the next 8 months on the platform known as **Beyond the Rim Experience**. The name itself tells kids and adults that there's more than just a game here, and within five minutes of watching the Towers play, you no longer see the height of the players, but rather it's just a game of basketball played by young men who love the sport. The Towers played organizations, PTA's, and Faculties of schools and groups, mainly related to friends or family members of a player. The games were all in good fun, and everyone in attendance thoroughly enjoyed what the Towers were about. A real life lesson is taken away by all and the impact the Towers have had on all their fans and audiences have been astounding. Their scrap book of pictures, great stories of how we've changed people's views on life, and letters from parents, teachers, and kids have all illustrated that the Towers through basketball have shown people that we're all different and it's those differences that make us all human.

The Towers look forward to continue their approach at creating dwarfism awareness where ever they are asked to go and are working hard at competing for this year's DAAA games in Anaheim. For more information on the Towers, you can check out their website at:



www.NYTOWERSBASKETBALL.com

CAMP LITTLE PEOPLE

By Bev Sollenberger

Spring has finally arrived and soon our campers will be arriving at Camp Victory. This is our 15th year at Camp Victory! For those who don't know, Camp Little People is a weekend camp for families with children who have dwarfism from ages approximately 3-17. It is an LPA District 2 event held for a weekend in June at Camp Victory which is a totally accessible camp for kids with challenges. It is located in Millville PA near Bloomsburg and Danville, off the I-80 Buckhorn Exit. Our families reside in cabins with other families. Families and staff dine together in the cafeteria for the delicious meals which are provided by Camp Victory's dietary staff. Our camp dates this year are June 10-12. Our activities are still in the planning stage, but include a visit from the Ashburn's Animals on a Mission Farm on Saturday. Janel Ashburn who lives in the area of Camp is starting a therapy program with domestic animals. The campers will be able to spend time with the animals. On Saturday at the pond, we will have a fishing derby for the serious fishermen. We are planning a craft time. We will have archery and a golf workshop for those interested to test their skills. As always, we will use the activities that Camp Victory offers...low ropes course, climbing wall and zip line, paddle boating, game room, basketball, and swimming. For a treat, we are planning to have a local ice cream truck arrive just in time for dessert on Saturday night. We are accepting 130 campers. If seriously interested in coming to camp this year, go to our website www.camplittlepeopl.org for details or email Bev Sollenberger, Camp Director at bkscpl@yahoo.com.

Chapter Contacts

Garden State - 25

State: New Jersey
 President – Danielle Morganti
 (856) 521-0378
 E-mail: jdorganti@comcast.net
 Treasurer – Marianne Velcamp
 (732) 219-0830
 Website: www.lpadiistrict2.org

LIBERTY (NJ/Philadelphia) - 30

States: New Jersey and Pennsylvania
 President: Audrey Curwin
 E-mail: mkycurve@comcast.net
 Website: www.lpadiistrict2.org

FINGER LAKES (Northern) - 42

State: New York
 President: Shirley Tillinghast
 E-mail: stilinghast@roadrunner.com
 Website: www.lpadiistrict2.org

ISLANDERS (Long Island) - 18

State: New York
 President: Michael Petruzzelli
 Neal P Jones:
nealpjones@verizon.net
 Clinton Brown III:
cbrown92@optonline.net
 E-mail: lpaislandersd2@gmail.com
 Website: www.lpadiistrict2.org
 NY Towers Basketball Email:
nytowersbasketball@gmail.com

MID HUDSON (Hudson Valley) - 40

State: New York
 President: Jimmy Korpai
 E-mail: lp40@hvc.rr.com
 Website: <http://www.lpa-midhudson.org>
 Website: www.lpadiistrict2.org

MOHAWK VALLEY (Albany and North) - 43

State: New York
 President: Nicole DePaul
 Vice President: Christine Jimenez
 E-mail: lpamohawkvalley@gmail.com
 Website: www.lpamohawkvalley.weebly.com
 Website: www.lpadiistrict2.org

NY METS (NYC) - 7

State: New York
 President: Katherine Koos
 E-mail: katkoos@mac.com
 Website: www.lpadiistrict2.org

PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH - 22

State: Pennsylvania
 President: Patricia Mumma
 E-mail: ram823@dejazzd.com
 Website: www.lpadiistrict2.org

METS Chapter 7

By Katherine Koos

Do you live in NYC? Looking for something to new to do? Then have I got something for you. Meet new people and learn new skills... The more volunteers the merrier. The METS chapter is looking for officers!!!

If you are interested in this opportunity of a life time, please email kkoos@lpadistrict2.org

If you have recently relocated to NYC please be sure to update your contact information with the national office.

Chapter Contacts (con't)

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA (Pittsburgh) - 34

State: Pennsylvania

President: Alison Valli

E-mail: kalisonvalli@gmail.com

Website: www.lpadistrict2.org

District 2 Loves Sports

By Neal Jones

D2 captured the hearts of everyone this past regional on Long Island at the Uniondale Marriott as they offered DAAA sporting events. Neal Jones, one of the newest DAAA board members, Michael Petruzzelli, President of Chapter 18, and many others merged their ideas thus providing the best of both organizations. Thanks also go out to Stacie Pouliot Regional Coordinator and the DAAA (for information visit www.daaa.org).

The D2 Regional provided Basketball and Volleyball, organized by Clint Brown, Craig Tilkin, Dave Halyck, and Danny Fava which gave our local athletes an opportunity to compete and practice before the upcoming National Games in Anaheim, Ca. The District 2 Regional also offered Bocce ball at the hotel which was organized by a special guest, the President of the DAAA, Amy Andrews. Bocce signups were minimal at first; then the room filled with excitement and participants!

Congratulations to all of our athletes!!!

The competition was fierce as the New York Towers showed off their Gold Medal talent. The juniors competed in a 4 vs. 4 double elimination Basketball tournament that gave everyone something to cheer about. The New York Towers continue to prepare of the upcoming DAAA National Games. They have also continued to organize and participate in several charity events throughout the region. Check out their charitable work via www.nytowerbasketball.com.



The Regional DAAA Games added the same family atmosphere and enjoyment that D2 members enjoy when they competed at the 2011 Nassau County **Empire State Games for the Physically Challenged** in New York this June. These games provide various levels of events for all ages as well as all levels of ability. You can view results of the Empire State Games at <http://www.empirestategames.org/summer/results>.

This year's 2011 Games will be held on June 2nd-4th. Ann Marie Ott-Ehler Co-coach along with Sherry Heyman, are making plans for those who'd like to stay at the Marriott hotel Thursday & Friday. Although this is not required, and many simply drive as there is ample parking, yet if a hotel suits your needs, we are trying to obtain a group rate (similar to the regional rate of \$105), so if you are looking to stay, please let Ann know ASAP at Email: jehler@hvc.rr.com phone: 845-355-8291. The Hofstra dorms are also offered by the Games. This housing is free of charge for athletes and up to 3 family members. Meals are available free for athletes and nominal charge for family



members. (This was true as of last year; please check out the site for additional info). These events bring athletes and families together to enjoy competition with their peers and hang out time to share their experiences in school, LPA and life in general.

Mohawk Valley Chapter 43

By Katie Quinn

Once again the Mohawk Valley Chapter (43), covering the counties in northeastern New York State, is up and running!

Our initial meeting to discuss reforming the chapter was held in September 2010, and was followed the next day by a brunch and cruise on the Hudson River. Jimmy Korpai from the Mid Hudson chapter was on hand to provide valuable assistance, and offer suggestions about how best to get reestablished. Members from other nearby chapters also lent their moral support during our "inaugural weekend."

Since last fall, we have enjoyed getting together for a holiday party complete with a visit from Santa Claus, and most recently, a spring potluck brunch and Easter egg hunt.

On August 6th our chapter will host a pool party and potluck! Everyone is invited. Please email Nicole to R.S.V.P. and for further information at ndepaul@nycap.rr.com. Rain date will be the following Saturday August 13th. Please call Nicole with any questions (518) 209-8833.



Pictured: From Left, Ann Parillo of The Schenectady Today Show, Winn Huntley, Brianna Jimenez, Nicole DePaul

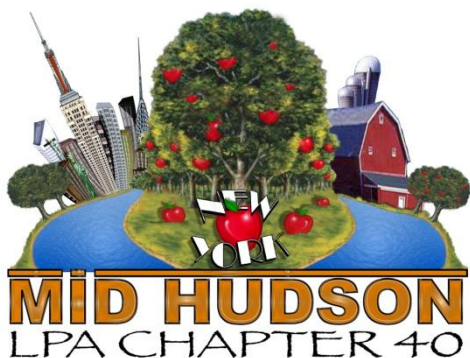
Besides getting together to socialize and have fun, members of the chapter, especially President Nicole DePaul along with her husband Vince, have also been actively working to raise awareness in our communities. Whether it be by giving interviews to magazines and newspapers, going on a local public access TV show, or giving presentations in local schools, we hope to be able reach out to potential new members this way too.

We look forward to meeting you at Camp Little People, Anaheim, and at the pool party in August! You can also check out our website at www.lpamohawkvalley.weebly.com.

PA Dutch Chapter 22

By Holly Miller, Vice President

This year marks the PA Dutch Chapter, District 2 of LPA 17th Annual Little People Benefit Golf Tournament. It will be held on Sunday, May 22nd at the Valley Golf Club in Myerstown, PA. Every year the chapter has an outstanding turn out and the event is a day of fun for all who attend. The sponsors and golfers are exceptional as are our members that work so hard make the event a huge success and fun for everyone. I would like to give a special thank you to Ken Ritter and Wilmer Hurst for their continuous dedication every year! They are truly appreciated. We have something new this year in honor of Pattie Davis our former Chapter President. As many know she has been battling cancer. The chapter is setting up an honorary scholarship in her name. Ken has arraigned all proceeds from the tee she has worked at during the tournament to go towards the scholarship. I know all of the golfers enjoy seeing Pattie at the tournament every year. The strength she shows and love she has for LPA is extraordinary. She is a blessing to all of us and we have learned so much from her. You are welcome to join us or visit the chapter's web site at www.padutchlpa.org/golf. There you can get more information about the event, read the testimonials, check out our pictures, register and if you would like to consider sponsoring the tournament that can also be done on the website.



The LPA Mid-Hudson Chapter 40 is gearing up to work with the Long Island Chapter to lend support for the upcoming Nassau County Empire State Games/BBQ in June. We look forward to cheer on the kids as they compete in different events. With a pretty quiet year ahead of us we are looking to plan some type of event during the summer of 2011. We are speaking with the Garden State Chapter NJ in hopes to collaborate on a sporting event later this year to introduce sports to our younger members with support from our older LP members.

On October 15, 2011 we will host our 5th annual Fall Harvest at Hurd's Family Farm in the Hudson Valley of New York. It is unbelievable how fast time has gone by and how the event has grown.

The event started with 30 people and has grown to 100 attendees last year. The farm provides an array of activities for all ages, which includes a corn maze, cow barrel ride, apple sling shot, and of course apple and pumpkin picking. All are welcome, so please mark your calendars!

In the end of May, MHC 40 says farewell to two of our most treasured members Alice and Grady Horndt as they find themselves moving from New York to Virginia. Alice was one of the founding members of LPA Mid-Hudson Chapter 40 and her hard work and dedication continues to benefit all of our members today. We will miss them dearly and wish them all the best!

After four years, Darlene and I plan to step down from our roles of President and Vice-President of Mid-Hudson Chapter 40. We hope to concentrate our time and efforts on our new educational and awareness program entitled Understanding Dwarfism. We plan to continue to be a contributor to the chapter and to other events which support our members and the community.

Jimmy Korpai

Western PA Chapter 34

Since November's regional conference, Western PA chapter enjoyed our annual holiday party at the Grand Hall at the Priory so generously provided by the Graf family - thank you! We had a great time and elected new officers at the meeting: President - Alison Valli; Vice President - Suzanne Graf; Secretary - Terri Kirby; Treasurer - Sara Fernandez; and Parent Coordinator - Valerie Pepicello. We'd like to thank Terri and Rob Kirby for their many years of dedicated service leading the Western PA chapter and we are thrilled that Terri is continuing to serve our chapter.

All of our new officers are excited for the year to come. Our plans include our annual picnic at Yellow Creek State Park on June 18th (all from District 2 are welcome to attend—we'd love to see you!), as well as a pool party in August and another outing (TBD) in late September or early October, and of course, our holiday party to wrap up the year. Just recently, the Pepicello family hosted an April event in Erie. Anthony's DAAA basketball team members flew in from across the country to host a fundraiser to support their travel to the DAAA games this summer in Anaheim. Their LP team played local average-sized celebrities from Erie, and as Anthony's mom, Valerie, so aptly put it, "The Alpha Dwarfs kicked major Average-size butt. LOL!! The score was 41-26!" Congratulations to Anthony and his team for an outstanding performance, and our thanks to the Pepicellos for organizing/hosting such a wonderful event.

We've also been busy planning the Spring 2012 District 2 Regional Conference. After meeting with 6 hotels, believe it or not, we will again be hosting it at the Airport Marriott. This facility is simply one of the best in the Pittsburgh area in terms of being well-suited for our needs. The date will be March 23rd-25th, and we look forward to seeing many of you there!

We have some news regarding some of our members that we'd like to share as well: Rob and Dasha Kirby both had back surgery this past year. Dasha is doing well and Rob is continuing to recuperate from multiple surgeries; we are happy to report that he is now back to work. We wish Rob and Dasha continued healing and congratulate Terri on maintaining her sanity (and theirs) throughout the ordeal!

Emily Fernandez has had a baby girl! Eva Lucia Piedra was born on January 18th, 2011. Both mom and baby are doing well. Eddie Piedra is the proud father; Jorge Fernandez is now a proud granddad; and Sara Fernandez is now a proud aunt! CONGRATULATIONS to all!

Please keep Pattie Davis and her family in your prayers as she has been in and out of the hospital recently. She is now home recuperating. Several families got together in April in Carlisle to celebrate the dedication/formation of a District 2 scholarship in her name; what a special and fitting way to honor Pattie and her many years of service to this organization. Pattie, you have made a difference for so many and you are in all of our prayers.

We'd love to hear more from our many other Western PA Chapter members. If you have any personal news that you would like to share, or if you have any comments or suggestions (or would like to host an event in your area), please contact Alison Valli at kalisonvalli@gmail.com or [412 259-8448](tel:412-259-8448). Thank you!

Garden State Chapter

By Danielle Morganti

The Garden State Chapter will be hosting the Fall 2011 Regional. It will be held at the Ocean Place Resort in Long Branch, NJ. The room rate is \$89 per night with LPA. Their website is <http://www.oceanplace.com/>. So far we have the following planned:

- Friday night – Bonfire on the Beach (weather permitting).
- Saturday – Dr. Mackenzie, an Orthopedist from Dupont Hospital will be available for medical evaluations.
- Saturday Evening – Banquet Dinner.

Also in the works are some workshops, and a teen event. More information will be available soon.

Abilities Day

By Harlee Ott

I am a member of the Honorary Professional Education Fraternity, Kappa Delta Epsilon, which recently hosted an Abilities Day at my college. There were several disabilities represented through informational tables and speakers. I, with the help of Jimmy and Darlene Korpai, set up an Understanding Dwarfism table. My table consisted of an informational board which contained a number of inspirational quotes, pictures, facts, misconceptions, and advice for students and educators. A friend also provided me with a personal six minute video on her views of living with dwarfism. I also had the wonderful addition of retractable posters, an interactive questionnaire, and informative cards that were provided by the Korpai family. Even with my last minute entry leaving little time for preparation, I am glad that I participated. Through additional media and literature that Jimmy and Darlene have available, more knowledge of what the event is geared towards and a desire to speak in the future, I feel fully assured future participation in this event will be a success. My theory is that if by reaching out and displaying our information we can educate one person, we have succeeded. It is my hope, that through our positive



Pictured: Harlee Ott's presentation

message that one person will continue to spread the word. I want to thank the Korpai family and all my friends who provided me with quotes and video. As a future educator, "I aspire to be the best I can be and to inspire others to do the same." I implore everyone to make use of the learning materials that our district has to offer, and I am also available for any questions regarding future educational displays.

Save the Date for Black Bear Lake:

The Garden State Chapter will be holding a Summer Picnic at Black Bear Lake on August 13th from 12:00pm – 5:00pm. All the food and snacks you can eat and fun activities like swimming (3 pools with slides and the lake), paddle boats, laser tag, segway rides, and plenty of fields for sporting events. Their website is <http://www.bblfun.com/>.

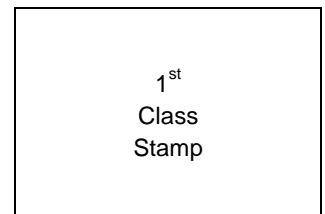
Editor’s Message:

I’d like to apologize for the delay in getting this out! Since it’s my first experience there were some bumps in the road I needed to resolve before I could get this completed. I promise that future editions will be timelier. If anyone has any comments, suggestions, or future submissions please email me at vdepaul@nycap.rr.com.

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